

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2741

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide a wage index floor for hospitals and home health agencies located in certain areas under the Medicare Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 2007

Ms. SHEA-PORTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide a wage index floor for hospitals and home health agencies located in certain areas under the Medicare Program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FLOOR ON MEDICARE AREA WAGE INDEX FOR**
4 **HOSPITALS AND HOME HEALTH AGENCIES**
5 **LOCATED IN CERTAIN AREAS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1886(d)(3)(E) of the So-
7 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(3)(E)) is amend-
8 ed by adding at the end the following new clause:

1 “(iii) FISCAL YEAR 2007 FLOOR FOR CER-
2 TAIN AREAS.—

3 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
4 clause (i), in no case shall the area wage
5 index for a hospital located in an area de-
6 scribed in subclause (II) for discharges oc-
7 curring on or after October 1, 2007, be
8 less than the area wage index applicable to
9 such hospital during fiscal year 2007.

10 “(II) AREA DESCRIBED.—An area de-
11 scribed in this subclause is a rural area
12 where at least 65 percent of the wages
13 paid by all subsection (d) hospitals located
14 in such area on October 1, 2006, not tak-
15 ing into account reclassifications or redес-
16 ignations under paragraph (8) or (10), is
17 attributable to wages paid by one hospital.

18 “(III) TREATMENT AS RECLASSIFICA-
19 TION FOR BUDGET NEUTRALITY.—Sub-
20 clause (I) shall be treated as a decision of
21 the Medicare Geographic Reclassification
22 Review Board under paragraph (10).”.

23 (b) RURAL FLOOR FOR HOME HEALTH AGENCIES
24 LOCATED IN URBAN AREAS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1895(b)(4)(C) of
2 such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395fff(b)(4)(C)) is amended
3 by adding at the end the following: “In no case shall
4 the area wage index for a home health agency lo-
5 cated in an urban area in New Hampshire be less
6 than the area wage index for a rural area in such
7 State.”.

8 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
9 by paragraph (1) shall apply to payment for episodes
10 and visits ending on or after January 1, 2008.

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